

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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With God There Is No Impossible Case

By EVANGELIST MERV ROSELL, D.D.

There is an awful price tag on SIN... which cannot be paid except for the "gift card" attached to the grace of God (Rom. 6:23).

I have just returned to my desk from a city-shaking spiritual awakening shared by the people of eighty-five churches united by this effort. I will not name the city because I want to talk intimately about the HEART PROBLEMS of her people.

I will also carefully and prayerfully quote from their letters and conversations so that not one will be hurt by what you read. They would be the first to help me warn you of the overwhelming consequences of sin. In this certain city and in literally hundreds of others, I have knelt by the hour with broken people with broken homes and broken hearts.

After preaching five times on a recent Lord's day, I found that people were willing to await consultation and prayer until as late as one o'clock in the morning as I dealt with problem after problem. Without exception the Lord met every one of them with HIS WONDERFUL GRACE and the PRACTICAL solution found in HIS WORD. There IS an answer for the problems resulting from sin!

Letters From the Sin-Sick

Before I list some of the problem-smashing answers, let us walk gently among the hearts of these honest friends: (Personal lines and words, I will delete).

"In these lines you are going to read of a life broken by sin," writes a burdened and distressed young woman, "but I know that Christ died for me. If I did not believe this, I would have nothing to live for."

"Hear me out. If you believe me and can help me find peace and freedom, I pray God will make it possible for me to talk with you. I talked with a personal worker but did not dare tell her the sordid

details of my past. Since Wednesday night every one of your messages has hit me.

"At thirteen I was... baptized. At fourteen, went forward in a dedication service. My joy knew no bounds. Next three years I changed my letter to a larger, more modern church. At seventeen, in a summer conference, I stood with a young man whom I loved, as we dedicated our lives for Christian service. The following year, while in nurses' training, I found he had married another. Discouraged and broken

(Continued on Page 5)



Dr. Merv Rosell

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO BETHEL-

—THE PLACE OF TRANSFORMED LIVES

... THE PLACE OF REDEDICATED LIVES... THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE... THE PLACE OF WAITING ON GOD... THE PLACE OF INSTRUCTION... THE PLACE OF POWER WITH GOD AND MEN?

By EVANGELIST BILL RICE

When Jacob was forced to flee from home for fear of his brother Esau, the poor, lowly, runaway boy slept on the rocky slope, with a stone for his pillow. That night in a dream he saw a ladder to Heaven and angels ascending and descending. He said, "God was in this place, and I knew it not." There he made a vow to serve God, to give the tithe.

Long years went by. Jacob made money, but drifted. He had wives and children and flocks, but his daughters played the harlot. Two sons were murderers. One day God called him and told him to come back to Bethel, back to the place where he had made his vows back to the place where he had anointed the stone and called

this place the house of God. So his family put away their idols and put on clean clothes and all went back to Bethel where God met them.

Oh, the need for a Bethel in the hearts and lives of believers today! A place of turning from sin! A place of rededication! A place of renewed vision! A place of refreshing! A place of instruction!

That is the purpose of the great Sword of the Lord Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Siloam Springs, Arkansas, August

(Continued on Page 6)

50,000 Copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD Printed This Issue

KING DAVID'S HORRIBLE SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE



"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down into his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk; and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war."—II Sam. 11:1-18.

It is not common, in these days of timid preachers, in these days when the men who ought to be ministers and prophets of God are often "dumb dogs, they cannot bark" (Isa. 56:10), to hear sermons on David's scarlet sin. It is not often these days that preachers obey the injunction of Isaiah 58:1 to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Yet I recall that in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary the beloved Dr. Jeff D. Ray, professor of homiletics, made us, his ministerial students, prepare sermon outlines on David's sin with Bath-sheba, his shameful murder of Uriah, her husband, and the fearful consequences of this sin. Here, he said, were all the elements for great preaching. Intense human interest, a heart-moving drama, the thrilling pace of the narrative, the unutterable pathos of the outcome, and God's wonderful mercy and forgiveness—all these are themes that ought to bring out the very best in any preacher, and ought to appeal to any congregation. I am surprised and a little ashamed that I do not recall preaching more than two com-

plete sermons on this bit of Scripture in a ministry of twenty-seven years.

Some may feel that there is a frankness, an embarrassing forthrightness in this Scripture telling of adultery, which ought not to be read or discussed from the pulpit. They are utterly mistaken, for II Timothy 3:16, 17 tells us: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The man of God ought to use this Scripture which is so profitable for reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. This Scripture is part of the complete equipment of the man of God to

promote good works among his hearers and repentance among sinners. I pray that a thousand preachers may preach on this Scripture soon. How badly the message is needed in America today!

Every child of God should feel deeply warned and should fervently take to heart the lesson of David's sin. If such a mighty Christian as David fell into such terrible sin, with what fear and trembling ought all of us walk before God and to flee temptation! And sinners and saints alike ought to face with solemn examination and with holy vows the terrible fact here emphasized, that covered up sin leads to yet worse sin, to shameful public exposure, and

(Continued on Page 2)



Bob Jones, Sr.

Bob Jones Says:

By Evangelist Bob Jones, Sr., D.D., LL.D.

Founder Bob Jones University

Dying for Christ, He Lives Forever

Recently the writer visited the historic Fenwick Church in Glasgow, Scotland. On one tombstone near the church we read this inscription: "Peter Gemmel, shot to death by Nisbet and party, 1685, for giving faithful testimony to the cause of Christ. Age, twenty-one years. Blood-thirsty Redcoats cut his prayer short; his dying groans were made their sport."

As I stood there by the tombstone I made up my mind that I would put Peter Gemmel's name and testimony not only on the editorial page of our own weekly periodical, the FELLOWSHIP NEWS, but we would release it in our syndicated articles. Peter Gemmel has been dead 265 years, but he is not forgotten. We hope you who read this article will remember the name of this young man and note it carefully. Peter Gemmel gave his life for the Christian testimony. He just lived on this earth twenty-one years.

It is not so important how long we live. The important thing is that we live well. It is better to die for something, as Peter Gemmel did at the age of twenty-one, than to live for nothing like many young people are living today. There are some things worth dying for. If the Lord Jesus Christ had not died on Calvary's Cross when He was still a comparatively young man, all men of all generations would have been lost for all eternity. If there had been no martyrs to the Christian

(Continued on Page 6)

Meet Me at Siloam Springs, Ark., Aug. 7-14

By the Editor

1. Only \$14 for eight days, bed and meals!
2. Great program, including Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Dr. D. A. (Scotchie) McCall, Bill Rice, James V. Lamb, Elmer Piper, Emil Aanderud, John R. Rice, etc. Lives made over!
3. Room for 1,200 people if reservations come in in time to get dormitories

(Continued on Page 7)

King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences

(Continued from Page 1)

to fearful punishment from God. All the Scriptures on this subject emphasize again such texts as "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23); "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7, 8); "Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:15). What solemn warning there is for all of us in the Scripture concerning David's horrible sin and its consequences!

I. The Man Who Sinned

The prominence which God gave to David and David's great spiritual development emphasize all the more the horrible nature of his sin and make him all the more a startling example of what can happen to a Christian who does not beware.

First, even before David was anointed to be King over Israel Samuel was inspired to say of him: "The Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people . . ." (I Sam. 13:14). David was, in a peculiar sense, a man after God's own heart. That is, he was not only a regenerated man but a man peculiarly surrendered to God, a man anxious to do the will of God, a man who the most of his life was filled with the Holy Spirit.

When David was anointed by Samuel, we are told, "And the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward" (I Sam. 16:13). As a usual thing David consistently asked God for leadership in all his enterprises. He publicly gave God the glory for his victories. God held David up as an example to Solomon, saying unto him, "And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days" (I Kings 3:14). Then later the Lord sadly reports that in Solomon's old age he loved and married heathen women and followed after their gods. "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives

turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father" (I Kings 11:4). Here we may see how God rates David. He was the man 'whose heart was perfect with the Lord his God.' And all the kings of Judah thereafter are judged by the Lord on the basis of whether or not they followed the Lord as did David. For example, the Scripture says of Abijah, the son of Rehoboam, "Three years reigned he in Jerusalem . . . And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father."

This one horrible sin of David's mars an otherwise glorious record.

Remember that even before this sin of David's God had allowed him to begin the kingly dynasty which will end in the reign of Christ on David's throne at Jerusalem. To David God said, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever" (II Sam. 7:16). So Jesus is the "son of David." He is "the king of the Jews." And the angel Gabriel told Mary, " . . . and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32, 33). The Lord Jesus must return to earth to sit on that throne and establish that kingdom for which we pray in the Lord's Prayer when we say, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." How great was the honor given David, the man after God's own heart!

We must remember, too, that David was not only king, but also a prophet of God. In Acts 2:29, 30 we have the inspired words of Peter about David, saying: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne." By divine inspiration David wrote many wonderful Psalms. In these Psalms he foretold again and again the coming of Jesus, His death on the cross, salvation by His substitutionary death for sinners, and His wonderful future kingdom on earth.

When David sinned it was a spiritual giant who sinned. When the man after God's own heart fell into adultery and murder, it was as shocking as sin could be. And who are you who read this that you do not tremble at the thought? The most anointed and powerful preacher, the most spiritual and modest Christian woman ought to search every heart motive, ought to flee fearfully from sin, since David, so great and good, man of God, fell into such fearful sin!

II. The Factors in David's Sin

A licentious and wicked man, whose companions are immoral, whose past is shameful and whose heart does not know nor love God, might fall at one step into adultery and murder; but not so David! A man so pure in heart, so fervent in his love for God, so anointed as a prophet of God, fell into the most horrible of his sins only as the climax of a series of steps. David failed in little things and then he failed in great things. James 1:14, 15 says: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." So sin progresses in the steps of innate lust, enticement, the conception of intentional sin, and then the wages of sin, death.

What were the contributing factors in David's horrible sin?

Perhaps the first thing that led

to David's sin was idleness. It was the time of the year when kings go forth to battle. "David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem" (II Sam. 11:1). The war with the Ammonites was not of David's seeking. The preceding chapter tells how David sent messengers to comfort the king of Ammon concerning the death of his father, David's friend. The king of Ammon, Hanun, took David's servants and shaved off half their beards, cut off their garments in the middle and sent them, half naked and ashamed, back to David! Then the king of Ammon enlisted the Syrians to help him and attacked David and the children of Israel. We cannot blame David for the war. But if it were right for Joab and all the servants of David to be out in the war, then it seems that David should have been there, too, doing his part. He would never have fallen into such fearful sin had he not tarried at Jerusalem idly, when others who loved him imperiled their lives for him.

The servants of David mentioned here doubtless included the thirty-seven mighty men of war named in II Samuel 23:8-39. And the last of the thirty-seven mentioned is Uriah the Hittite. All these men, with thousands of lesser soldiers, risked their lives for David. But he idled in the palace and stole the wife of one of these men who was willing to die for him!

Not all of us can be soldiers. But, oh, how careful we ought to be not to sin against other soldiers who risk their lives for us and our country. I do not believe that soldiers who come out of the service unharmed should demand pensions nor receive undue favoritism in other matters. But it is unspeakably shameful for a civilian to steal the wife of a man absent in the service of his country.

Idleness leads to sin. Idleness is probably the greatest single factor in the youthful delinquency. There is character-building discipline in work. None of us want slave labor, nor oppression of children. Every child ought to have a fair chance at a common school education. But to be overworked is not nearly so bad as to be underworked. Blessed is the child who early learns to do hard work, to keep regular hours, to earn part of his own way, to save and use money.

Fond mothers and doting fathers do their children irreparable harm just here. What a boy needs to learn, in order to be a good man, is to work and obey orders. What a girl needs to learn is the same lesson; honest work, a carrying of one's own responsibilities faithfully, and obedience to those in authority.

I remember a whimsical and delightful bit from a message by Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. He said the following:

"Young man, have you been going with one of these painted dolls who lets her mother do all the work? Have you been keeping company with a girl who does not get up in time for breakfast, who leaves it to mother to wash the dishes and spends all her time on looking pretty and pleasing herself? If she one day tells you that she likes you very much and admires you but somehow she simply cannot love you and that she will always be just your good friend; and if you hear soon thereafter that she is engaged to marry another man, don't you play the fool and go and kill yourself! No, go buy them a wedding present! And don't be stingy, make it a thank offering! Then get down on your knees and thank God that He saved you from marrying a parasite who never learned to work and who could not make a good wife because she was not a good woman."

O, David, David! How often you must have wished you had not idled at home and fallen into such sin while others were risking their lives for you!

Another factor that contributed greatly to David's fall was the fact that he was a king, and so exempt from the authority of

others. He probably felt that he did not have to obey the law. When he looked down from the roof-top and saw his neighbor's wife bathing in the patio which was safely enclosed from all prying eyes except one who might be on the palace roof-top, David had no fear that he would be arrested as a "peeping Tom"! He was the king. And "the king can do no wrong."

Let us face it frankly, then. The higher the position one attains, the more severe are the temptations. Every man who reaches a place of eminence, a place of authority or leadership, ought more strictly and rigorously to set a watch upon his lips and keep his heart with all diligence. The more one is free from accountability to others, the more he is accountable to God. The more one is free from the control of others, the more he is tempted to sin! Young people sometimes fret at chaperones. But chaperones keep people from sin. Young people often long for the time to come when they can have their own way. They do not know it, but one day they will see that strict rearing and enforced obedience to authority were the greatest safeguards to keep them from ruin.

It is said that Vice-President Chester A. Arthur, when elected as the teammate of President Garfield for the Presidency, was a playboy, and was counted the tool of selfish interests who sought to use him for bad ends in the government. But on the death of President Garfield, Chester A. Arthur suddenly found himself president. And with commendable integrity he suddenly broke away from all the men who would have used him for evil purposes and dedicated himself to the business of being an upright president. He was never a great president nor a great man, but he was greatly sobered by the responsibility thrust upon him so unexpectedly; and he felt the need to watch his step and safeguard every action since he was exalted to such a responsible place.

Every evangelist anointed of God and greatly used in preaching before big congregations will find that the hearts of multitudes are given into his hands. He can lead them right or wrong. How earnestly, then, should he seek the will of God and holily should he seek to humble his heart and avoid the sins that come with prominence. Every attractive gospel singer will have foolish young women throwing themselves at his head. Unless he walks very softly and discretely he will fall into grievous sin. The man who reaches a responsible place of importance and fame must watch his step. He will be tempted all the more, as King David was.

But a more important element, even yet, in David's downfall, was this fact: he dallied with sin. He did not immediately resist the Devil and flee from temptation.

Do you believe that David, when he went on the palace roof to sit under the stars that evening, immediately intended to go into adultery and murder? Certainly not! And when he saw the woman bathing herself in the courtyard or patio next door and below him that night after bedtime, do you think he planned at once his sin? I do not think so. First, he gazed upon the woman, another man's wife, and enjoyed her beauty, though he had no right to do it. The first glance was an accident for which David could not be blamed. But when he sat and enjoyed her beauty, the beauty of an unclothed wife of another man, it was sin.

As David looked upon her there was first enjoyment, and then desire. Then David called a servant and inquired who the woman was and was told: "Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" You see, David did not even know who the woman was. He did not know until this moment that her husband was away in the wars. Now the enticement of lust conceives the sin. Who is to stop him? The husband is not at home! So he sends for the woman and has her brought to meet him.

It is hard for me to believe that

David even then intended to commit adultery. Perhaps he did. I think rather that he followed the impulse of the moment, and went on with the delightful temptation, letting it lead him whither it would. To be sure it was past bedtime, but he was the king and there would be no one to call him to account for a improper visit with another man's wife. And when he found her attractive and perhaps greatly flattered by the king's attention, and young and lonely, David went on with his sin.

How much better if David, on the housetop, and seeing for the first time the scene of a woman bathing next door, had risen at once and returned to his bedroom. He should have said to himself, "That is another man's wife. The man is a friend of mine. He is a loyal servant. I have no right to the other man's wife. I have wives of my own. I am God's man; I must not do wrong." David should have fled from the temptation at once. But dallying and tarrying, he was overwhelmed and led into sin.

David should have followed the example of Joseph down in Egypt. When Potiphar's wife caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me," then Joseph "left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out." Joseph was not only pure, he was also wise. Joseph was not only innocent, but he was strong! Oh, Christian, what a sin it is to dally around places and around people, and with habits or amusements, that will lead us into damning and killing sin! Paul wrote to young Timothy, "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22). The girl who goes to the dances, but will not dance because it is against her conscience, will soon find that her conscience changes with her environment. She only wants to be with her crowd, perhaps, and is determined she will not follow their sins, but before long she finds herself giving way to their sins. Before long she will soothe her conscience and allow her body to be fondled and her evil nature aroused and tempted with all the lewdness that naturally follows the modern dance and the necking party.

Young people who will not drink beer and cocktails, but who get their Coca-Colas at the same fountain where beer is served, will most likely soon be drinking the intoxicants which make drunkards—and much more—of all who follow that way!

Christians who play bridge but who have a conscience against gambling will soon find out that their conscience adjusts itself to their company and soon they would rather play for stakes than embarrass a hostess, and gambling will not seem as bad as offending their worldly companions. Those who dally with sin, fall into the depths.

Happy is the girl who blushes and withdraws from the immodest touch. Happy is the young man who fears the jingle of tainted money and the rustle of unholy skirts, and the maddening demon of the alcoholic glass! Oh, Christian, if you would keep your purity and your convictions, if you would avoid falling into terrible sins, then you must hate the appearances of evil and flee from youthful lusts. You must not dally with temptation if you would be victorious. David looked too long, and he lost!

But I must emphasize another element in David's fall into terrible sin. David, I fear, forgot the enemy within! He forgot his own tendency to sin. The inborn sinful nature contributed to David's fall.

He seems to have meditated much on this later. In his penitential prayer in the fifty-first Psalm, verse 5, David prayed, "Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." That prayer was written after his sin with Bath-sheba. He was now conscious of the awful wickedness of his own natural heart.

And I am impressed that David probably saw later that he had too long ignored this carnal nature within. He had not watched himself as carefully as he might. For in the following verse, Psalm 51:6, he said, "Behold, thou de-

(Continued on Page 3)

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King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences

(Continued from Page 2)

siest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom." Evidently there had been some neglect of prayer, some letting down of the bars on minor matters. David had not watched and prayed as much as he ought. He had not been continually conscious of his own weakness and his own natural tendencies to evil. And now when some great temptation came, David found himself failing. He had not sufficiently safeguarded himself against his own natural weakness.

Paul the apostle was conscious that when a man is a lost sinner he has a wicked nature inherited from Adam and Eve and all his foreparents. Then when the man is saved, he has two natures, the old nature and the new. There is a part of him that is born of God and cannot sin, a part of him that is a partaker of the divine nature. But every Christian still has the old nature, too. And that struggle between the two natures is what Paul wrote about in Romans 7:14-25:

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law, that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God;

but with the flesh the law of sin."

Paul never forgot that old carnal nature within him. In I Corinthians 9:27 he said: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away." He feared that if he did not keep down this old carnal nature, keep it under subjection, that he who had been so greatly used in preaching the gospel might fall into grievous sin and be laid on the shelf so God could use him no more in soul winning.

I am sorry that David did not take into account that old wicked nature within him. And let all of us remember that we have the same kind of nature.

Do you remember the story of how one Greek city warred against another and the besiegers left a giant wooden horse with some soldiers concealed inside? When the besiegers withdrew, then the men of the city dragged the wooden horse inside, and rejoiced at their capture. But when night was come, the soldiers hidden inside got out of the wooden horse and opened the gates of the city to the invading army.

Oh, a Christian might resist all the wiles of the enemy, as long as the enemy is on the outside. But the sad truth is that every Christian has a traitor within his own body. He has longings and desires and temptations that flow from his own unsanctified human nature. The first child ever born in this world turned out to be Cain, a murderer; and every child born since is tainted by nature, alien from God, with an innate tendency to evil. How watchful, how prayerful one should be, how circumspect in the effort to buffet the carnal nature and keep the bodily nature in subjection lest one should fall into sin! David was dragged into sin by his own innate nature, as he himself later admitted in Psalm 51:5.

Jesus warned the boastful Peter: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). But Peter did not listen to the warning and so fell into terrible temptation, denied the Saviour and cursed and swore and then quit the ministry! Oh, let us watch

and pray, lest we fall into temptation because of our weak flesh!

III. The Progress of Hidden Sin

No tragedy of Shakespeare is as tragic as the tragedy of David's sin. Consider for a bit how sin grew and flourished when it was not instantly repudiated, or when it was not confessed at once and forsaken.

First, David enjoyed his desire and encouraged it. But after dallying with temptation it became soon too strong for him to resist.

David's temptation was like the boa constrictor, the giant snake which a man raised from babyhood until it was eighteen feet long. It would coil itself about him in play and release him at a command. The man made much money by having the great reptile coil about his body on the stage. The snake could have killed a deer or an ox by constricting its muscles, but the man was accustomed to it and the snake obeyed his commands. But one day the snake was angry; and when he gave the command to release him, instead it crushed him to death in a moment. So when we play with temptation, we are enslaved by it and killed by it.

A little vine grows about a big tree and one thinks nothing of it. But eventually the vine becomes strong and saps the life of the tree and the tree dies. The gaunt trunk of the dead tree becomes simply the trellis for the overmastering parasite. So a man plays with temptation and then is mastered by it.

Can you imagine the mixed emotions, the struggle of soul that went on in the heart of David? David was a loyal friend. Do you remember how he loved Jonathan? Do you remember how he cared for Mephibosheth? Do you remember his loyalty to Barzillai the Gileadite, who fed him and cared for him when he fled Absalom? David was a tender man, a loyal man. He must have thought much and perhaps was tormented at the thought of wronging Uriah, one of his devoted and valiant bodyguard. But soon David had gone too far and he threw his fears to the wind. For the moment he was overwhelmed with his own passion. He committed the deadly sin. He stole the affection of his friend's wife and led her into adultery. It was a terrible sin. According to the Mosaic law in Leviticus 20:10, it deserved death. And that idleness and foolish sense of his king-

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

I have been dealing with orthodox Christian people for a long time. Some of these good folks are educated, and some are not educated. Some of them are rich, and some of them are poor. Some of them have more native ability than others. Some of them are naturally generous, and some, I will have to admit, are inclined to be a little stingy. But the overwhelming majority of the orthodox, evangelical people I have ever met are inclined to be generous in their giving to God's work. It, however, is not always easy for a Christian to know just where is the best place to invest the money that he wishes to put into the Lord's work. Good businessmen, whether they are Christians or sinners, try to invest money in a type business that will pay good dividends. Jesus said, "The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." All of God's born-again, evangelical, orthodox people ought to be very careful about the causes to which they make contributions. Years ago when I was a struggling young man, the Lord sent me some money. I gave some of this money to an educational institution that is now one of the most modernistic institutions in America. I was assured that this institution would be true to the Word of God. The people that asked me to invest my money in that cause got my money under false pretenses.

Since Bob Jones University stands without apology for the "old-time religion" and the absolute authority of the Bible, and since God is pouring out His blessings upon the institu-

tion in such a wonderful way, and since it is training more ministers than any other educational institution on this continent, it does feel that God's orthodox people should co-operate with it financially. You good, orthodox Christians please note these figures:

During the first three weeks of our summer vacation, our ministerial students, according to definite reports which we have filed in our offices, conducted 7,220 public Christian religious services. They dealt with 28,725 people about their souls. We have a record of 4,155 people whom they led to the Lord Jesus Christ. They have reported 2,164 Christians who rededicated their lives fully to the Lord. They have also reported 495 young people who consecrated themselves to full-time Christian service. They have carefully placed in the hands of individuals 187,237 Gospel tracts, telling people what to do to be saved. Now, remember that this report is only partial. We believe that such results are unparalleled. If you Christian people believe in our honest-to-goodness spiritual program and you are interested in helping an institution that is putting on such a program, we would like to have you make a financial contribution to our Student Loan Endowment Fund. All of you who read this appeal can invest something. Do the best you can to help us, but please do something. Let us hear from you and God bless you.

BOB JONES,
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.

ly importance which would not allow him to be brought before a court of justice, and his dallying with sin, and his own carnal nature, led David over the brink into this shameful sin.

I suppose there were days of fear and trembling, days of humiliation of heart, days of shamed conscience after his sin with Bath-sheba. I warn you now, dear Christian, that you may sin with little thought of the future, but as certain as you are a child of God, you will be made miserable for your sin. The man or woman who can go into sin and not be troubled about it later must surely never have been born again.

Then one day David's greatest fears were confirmed. A message came from Bath-sheba. "I am

with child," she said. His greatest fears are realized. His sin is about to be brought to public exposure. What will David do?

You may be sure there was more heart searching, and then David planned what to do. He would send for Uriah, have him spend some days at home. Then when the baby was born no one could accuse David.

But Uriah, when brought from the battle, could not feel content to enjoy his home. His mind was on the place of duty. He was a valiant and loyal soldier. Joab, the army general, was still in the field of war. All his companions who had vied with him in doing mighty exploits were camped in the open field and in tents. So Uriah slept at the door of the

(Continued on Page 4)

PICTURES OF THE WEDDING OF GRACE JEAN RICE TO J. ALLAN MacMULLEN JUNE 9, 1949



1. Dr. Rice welcomes Allan MacMullen, new son-in-law, into family. 2. Father and bride start down the aisle. 3. Dr. V. R. Edman, president of Wheaton College, who performed the ceremony with Dr. Rice. 4. Bridesmaids in reception line: Joy Rice, Joanna Rice, Jessie Rice, Elizabeth Rice Hanford, Mary Loys Rice Himes.

5. Mother of the bride, Mrs. John R. Rice. 6. Recessional: The new Mr. and Mrs. J. Allan MacMullen! 7. The bride: Miss Grace Jean Rice. 8. In reception line: Groom, bride, Mrs. Rice, Mr. J. H. MacMullen, Mrs. J. H. MacMullen. 9. A fond father looks on!

King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences

(Continued from Page 3)

king's house and was ready when the early morning came to return to the battle.

This time David thought to make Uriah drunk and felt that surely drink would drown the patriotism that burned so warmly in Uriah's heart. But a second time, even when David had made him drunk, Uriah slept on his pallet nearby and did not go down to his house, did not see his wife.

David was desperate. He felt he must avoid a scandal at all costs. He suffered more fear because he was really, genuinely, a spiritual man. The sin seemed more horrible to him than it would to one who went regularly into such terrible God-dishonoring practices. At all costs, David felt, he must keep his sin hidden. So now, as a last resort, he planned to have Uriah killed. He wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. Perhaps Uriah could not read. If he could read, such a loyal man would never think of opening a letter entrusted to him for another. So the loyal, good soldier left David, with words of love and admiration, and went out to battle, not knowing that the man he loved had sent him to his death. The man he trusted was his murderer!

Joab, receiving David's instructions, put Uriah in the forefront of the battle, and Uriah was killed by the men of the besieged city. In the words of Nathan the prophet, David killed Uriah "with the sword of the children of Ammon" (II Sam. 12:9). A man who was first careless in his prayer life and ignored his carnal nature and the temptations of the flesh, has now been led into the worst possible sin. The man who dallied with temptation and looked on another man's wife and led her into adultery has now become a murderer!

Hear me! If you begin the road of sin you will come out at a destination you never expected! I have talked with many a criminal. I say "criminals," but actually they were ordinary people, very little different from you and me. And again and again the man or woman who was an embezzler, or a murderer, has said to me, "Whatever possessed me to commit such a sin! I never dreamed I would do a thing like that!" You see, the harlot never intended to become a harlot when she first went to the dance or when she allowed promiscuous necking and petting. You see, the man never intended to be a whore-monger when he looked at a woman to lust after her. You see, a murderer never intended to be a murderer when he first allowed hate to find lodgment in his heart. Sin may have small beginnings but it has fearful endings! Lust may seem a long way from murder but in James 1:15 we are told: "Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Again, let Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., the mighty evangelist, provide us an illustration. Dr. Jones said in my hearing that he read with astonishment in a daily paper that a certain pastor was accused of murdering the woman choir leader in his church. Dr. Jones said to a friend, "That is a lie! That preacher never did anything of the kind! He is one of the purest, best men I ever saw. I have preached in his church. I have been in his home. He is a good man. He might make minor mistakes but he is not a murderer. I know he did not kill that woman as the newspaper reports indicate."

But Dr. Bob tells us that the next day the newspaper carried the confession, signed by the preacher. He had fallen in love with the choir singer. They had carried on an affair long years. At last when exposure was threatened and the man's entire ministry was at stake, he killed her. He did that which he never dreamed he would do. Sin had a different ending to what he expected. And so it always is with sin.

An old proverb says: "Oh, what

a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." One sin leads to another. And I will tell you now, that there is only one remedy that can stop the growing flood tide of sin when it starts in the heart. There is only one way that one may break the chords that are beginning to bind and enslave a man or woman in sin. And that one remedy is confession to God, in honest repentance. As long as one covers his sin and tries to hide it, he will go further in sin. As long as one excuses his sin and has an alibi for it, and hugs the sin to his bosom, he will commit more sin and go on in his enslavement. But, thank God, when a man turns to God in honest, heartbroken confession and admits his sin and comes for the mercy that is promised to the penitent sinner, then the enchantment that ensnares him is broken. The enslaving passion is cleansed.

Oh, if we but knew it, the sin of all sins is to hide sin in the heart, to make excuses for it, to dally with it and temporize with it! The appeasement of Chamberlain and others did not work with Hitler. The appeasement of President Roosevelt at Yalta and Potsdam and of Truman later did not work with Stalin and atheistic, communistic Russia. So the appeasement of sin never does work out well. It always leads to further enslavement and ruin.

I studied most carefully the career of one great criminal in Texas who for murders and every kind of crime was finally assessed total penalties of some four hundred years in the penitentiary before he was at last given the death penalty for another murder. Do you know how he started? He started by first stealing chickens, and then stealing tires and batteries off of cars! Hardly anybody believes that stealing watermelons or chickens is the way to murder and the electric chair. But it is! And hardly any Christian will believe the promiscuous necking and the dance and nude pictures are the way to adultery and murder. But they are! Oh, sin, unconfessed sin, sin that is hidden in the heart, sin that is appeased and temporized with—such sin leads to utter ruin. So it did, even with the godly man, David, the anointed king, the Spirit-filled prophet. And so it will with you, whoever you be, who temporize with sin and coddle it and do not confess it and forsake it.

IV. The Sin Exposed

Now we must read more of the story in the Scripture and find what followed the terrible sin. Second Samuel 12:1-14 tells how Nathan the prophet came to David and boldly accused him of his sin.

"And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too

little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."—II Sam. 12:1-14.

Thank God for faithful Nathan, the prophet! He receiveth a message from God and delivered it to David. David could have killed him for it. Other kings did kill faithful prophets for the same kind of word from God.

Nathan was somewhat like John the Baptist who came face to face with King Herod and said, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." And from that moment Herodias, the adulterous wife, hated John the Baptist and determined to have him killed. Eventually, when her daughter danced before Herod and was promised whatever she would ask, she was taught by Herodias to ask for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. John the Baptist, saint of God, forerunner of the Saviour, the equal of any prophet ever born, was killed because he told a king the truth about his sins.

But in some ways Nathan's task was even more difficult. Nathan loved David. David was a good man. David was a prophet of God. David had been inspired to write Psalms for the Word of God. David had been given the honor of becoming the ancestor of Jesus Christ and the founder of the throne on which Christ will one day reign. How hard it must have been for Nathan to face David! It is not difficult for a Southern Baptist preacher to show the sins of Catholics. But it would be very difficult for a loyal Southern Baptist preacher to expose modernism in the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville. It would not be so difficult for an independent Fundamentalist Christian to expose the Federal Council of Churches. But how hard it would be for him to expose a bad book published by Moody Bible Institute and endorsed by leading fundamentalists! It is harder for a pastor to oppose the sin which goes on among his own members who love him and support him than it would be to preach on the sins of New York society! Nathan had a difficult job. O God, raise up more Nathans! May God give more ministers who can stand for God against a denominational bishop, a king or a friend. Nathan faced King David whom he loved and revered and told him about his sin.

It is a charming and pathetic story which Nathan told. A rich man with many flocks and herds stole the one little ewe lamb, the pet and joy of the poor man, and that little ewe lamb was prepared and served in style to company of the rich man.

Was Nathan referring to David's own sin? David thought not. How would Nathan know about it? The pieces of the puzzle were scattered so that no one could possibly know the whole story. A servant of David would know about the adultery, and Joab would know about the death of Uriah, but no one would know all the facts. I imagine it did not enter David's mind that Nathan referred to him. But God had revealed it to Nathan.

David's anger was so kindled and he pronounced judgment on the wicked man who had so sin-

ned against his neighbor. First, the man should surely die; and, second, he should restore the lamb fourfold. And then Nathan plainly said, "Thou art the man."

Never had a man been more blessed than David. God had showered upon his blessings. He had given the kingdom, had given him wives, had given him servants, had given him riches. If he had wanted or needed more, God would have given them. But David had wickedly taken a poor man's life, his joy and delight, and had committed adultery with the wife of a friend who trusted him, and then had murdered his friend! We can hardly think of a more terrible crime. And now the sin is out. God brings sin to light.

Do you think that your sin is hidden away? Do you think that men will never know it? Well, you should remember that God knows it already. And you should remember, second, that sin continued in will inevitably come to light. Usually it will be exposed in this life. Certainly it will be exposed when you stand before God and God's record books are opened. That which is whispered in a corner shall be shouted from the housetop. God will bring every secret thing to judgment, we are told. What warning to our hearts! Oh, believe me, dear reader! You cannot get by with sin. Even if you are a king you cannot get by. Even if no one knows it, you cannot get by! God will bring sin to judgment. "Be sure your sin will find you out."

V. The Fourfold Reaping of Sin

We must remember that David, though he has sinned, is the prophet of God. Although he has followed on from one terrible sin to another, we must not believe that he loves sin or that he has given himself up to sin. David is God's man, a born-again Christian. David wants to do right. He has been overwhelmed with temptation, but he is still God's man. And so when Nathan tells him the story of a wicked man who has oppressed his neighbor and stolen the one-ewe lamb, David, as a prophet of God, gives proper judgment. The man deserves death. The lamb must be restored fourfold.

David did not know it, but he was pronouncing judgment upon himself. He was to suffer and to pay four terrible times for the sin of his adultery and murder.

First, we are told, "And Nathan departed unto his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick." The child must die. That is payment number one of the account.

Oh, how David besought the Lord for the child! David fasted and lay all night on the earth. We know that his heart was penitent. We know that he pleaded for God's mercy. But the child that was stricken died.

The servants feared to tell David that the child was dead. They thought that surely now David would be almost deranged with grief. But David seems to have thought in his heart, "Perhaps the worst is over. God in His mercy has punished me, but I deserved it. Perhaps this is the end of the matter." So David comforted Bath-sheba and God in His mercy gave to David and Bath-sheba a second son, Solomon.

We dare to think that this child was given in answer to prayer. He was loved of God and God chose him to be David's successor and to sit on David's throne, though he was not the elder son. And Solomon was so blessed of God that we must not believe that any curse remained on him because of his father's and mother's sin. And yet the debt is not fully paid. "Fourfold," David the prophet had said. Now David the sinner must pay.

The next chapter tells us of Amnon's crime. Amnon was the spoiled son of David, and he fell in love with his half sister, Tamar. Nothing would do but that Tamar must come to his apartment and cook for him, and there the innocent girl was ravished. She went away weeping, and Absalom, her full brother, saw her, inquired where she had been, and took her to his home.

Poor David! Can anyone imagine the shame and grief of his

heart when he learned that his beautiful daughter, Tamar, had been ruined by her own brother, David's son? Can you imagine the accusing of his conscience? Can you imagine how he told himself: "How can I punish the boy? He has sinned as I sinned! I am reaping what I have sown!" Yet I imagine that after David's great trouble of heart and smittings of conscience he may have comforted himself and thought that the debt was paid in full. But, David, you must still reap the rest of the fourfold punishment that as the prophet of God you pronounced upon yourself so unsuspectingly.

Absalom, Tamar's brother, hated his half brother, Amnon, and determined to kill him. He made a feast for the king's sons and then instructed his servants: "Mark you now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? Be courageous, and be valiant." So when the party was on and Amnon had been drinking, Absalom commanded his servants and they killed the young man who had raped Absalom's sister, Tamar. And all the other king's sons fled the home to Jerusalem. But Absalom ran away to Talmi, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur (II Sam. 13:37). It seems that that was the home of his mother, David's wife Maachah, daughter of the king of Geshur. And we are told sadly, "And David mourned for his son every day."

Oh, David, David! Grieving over a ruined daughter, and now grieving over a murdered son! Is the debt all paid, David? Do you think that is the end of your sin? I wonder if David pondered the matter and thought that at long last he had outlived the results of his sin? But he had not. He had said, "And he shall restore the lamb fourfold" (II Sam. 12:6) and you have yet a payment to make for your sin, dear David.

The fourteenth and fifteenth chapters of II Samuel tell how Absalom was brought back to Jerusalem and partly forgiven and then how Absalom stole away the hearts of the people, rebelled against King David, and how David ran for his life from the city.

Can you imagine the despair of heart of King David as he flees (Continued on Page 8)

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With God There Is No Impossible Case

(Continued From Page 1)

hearted, I came to this city after many complicated weeks. To my astonishment the good girl friend whom I had taken in to live with me while her fine husband was overseas, had taken to running around with other men. Soon I was going with them dancing, drinking and involved with several men.

"I became very infatuated with a sailor and eventually took time off from work to meet him in — where we planned to be married. When I got there, he wanted to wait till he had a longer 'leave' ... even so we did not deny ourselves. Several months later ... a shipmate of his told me of his wife and three-year-old baby. This news, after I had spent all my money preparing a home for us.

"After thirteen years of this awful living, is there any peace? Last night I know I should have been at the foot of the cross. May the truth of the sermon tonight be engraved on the heart of every young person. There is no sermon too strong for the youth and the parents to hear. Never fear that you are over-doing it. Would to God that more people were as concerned as you are.

"May God strengthen every person who has gone forward in this meeting, for if they falter it will mean hell on earth for them. Can you help me to know how to begin life again? On my knees I beg God to show me His will for my life."

I would prefer not to print that heart-breaking appeal, if I could not follow it with another letter from the same girl. This letter followed a week of consultation and prayer with a consecrated and wise pastor's wife. We earnestly sought the solution by God's power alone. What a change of life and heart!

"I want to say a personal 'thank you' from my heart. I feel so humble and yet so wonderfully free since the guidance God gave me ... and forgiveness. For the first time in my life I am free from the torments of sin that had bound me. Now I'm standing on the promises of God, praying His way for my life. His Word is becoming alive and real. Prayer has become such a joy in my heart even in the few days since we talked and prayed. I want to thank you for referring me to Melva W. She is surely a friend who will help me from time to time ..."

Guilt Everywhere

GUILT, GOD and GRACE are three tremendous words that tell multiplied stories. "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, and all the world may become GUILTY BEFORE GOD" (Rom. 3:19).

A large area of the psychologist's theory of 'guilt complex' can be explained by the simple old-fashioned truth of Holy Spirit conviction of sin. Thousands of people crowd our cities whose maladjustment to society stems from the fact that God and His church have had no chance in their lives. For some strange reason, men these days turn to psychiatry rather than Christ and His ministers. Our spiritual leaders have been so lacking in compassion that men have lost confidence in the churches. Rare is the minister who has time to counsel with the scores of people who need him. People who rule churches have cluttered his schedule with everything else.

No thinking man is free from the knowledge of his guilt ... EXCEPT IN THE GRACE OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST. Modern sophistication has it well covered but sin still rankles in the deep heart. Walking among us are the leaf-covered Eves; the blood-spilling Cains; the Bathshebas taking Davids; the leprous Naamans; the compromising Lots; the avaricious Achans; the Absaloms, Dinahs, Hophnis and Phinehases ... all guilty broken

men, needing the grace of GOD.

All men have proven by their lives that "there is no difference; for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:22-23). Experience proves the fact of sin. The Bible declares it and even nature testifies to it (Gal. 3:22). The law exposed the reality of sin and man is consequently driven to confess that he is a sinner.

Man has wilfully broken contact with Heaven. Our rebellion, transgression, disobedience, ungodliness, impiety, iniquity, deviation and insubordination MAKES SIN SELF-EVIDENT. We have incurred an infinite liability, an indebtedness which we are completely unable to meet ... but for the GRACE of God.

As I once explained to a young cadet: When our original parents, Adam and Eve, were insubordinate and disobedient to the will of INFINITE God, it constituted an INFINITE SIN, which demanded an INFINITE PAYMENT for the consequent INFINITE PENALTY imposed by INFINITE JUSTICE ... which could be met only by an INFINITE PERSON (Jesus Christ, God's Son) through an INFINITE SACRIFICE, to bring us to that INFINITE FELLOWSHIP and relationship restored by faith at the foot of Calvary's cross. Sin is not only an act; it is the condition of separation from God. Therefore, even seemingly good and respectable people are liable to judgment until they are "born anew" into the family of faith. For "without faith it is impossible to please God!"

An admirably respectable young navy man wrote me last week: "Last night's sermon ... went home to me. The Lord surely spoke through you. The Holy Spirit touched me in a way I shall never forget, bringing me to my knees at the altar and making my heart cry out to the Lord ... In addition, my girl friend ... confessed her sins last night in the prayer room and I breathed a silent prayer that she would be cleansed as I had been. She did not need a spoken testimony when she came out ... her eyes told a beautiful story!" Stand amazed at the power of God to get down to the heart of the matter of sin and sins. THE SIN or rejecting Christ (John 3:18) and the SINS (I John 1:9) that so easily beset the human heart.

We must re-convince the world today that the CORRECT DIAGNOSIS of our spiritual dilemma irresistibly drives us to the fact that SIN is the core of our trouble. Society calls it "indiscipline." Scholars often label it "ignorance." Religious "Eddyism" says it's an "error of the mortal mind." The Darwinian die-hards insist that it is "a trace of the brute in man." Rationalists suggest that we "cult" the "defect." Some may label it an "accident" or an "infirmity," but God calls it SIN! Let's recognize it and deal with it God's way.

A leper knows he's a leper—but a sinner must be convinced. As though he had anesthetic leprosy affecting the trophic nerves until no "pain signal" ever reaches the mind, the SINNER often goes on ignoring his greatest problem!

A leper never laughs at his falling fingers. A narcotics addict never smiles at his terrible shaking. The man with cancer is desperately serious. The asthmatic never carelessly shouts over his brief breathing. The news of diphtheria, malaria, meningitis brings no joy! Strange, then, that those with the greatest malady, the vilest disease, the most cutting pain, can go carelessly on. Men with cancer of the soul—leprosy of the heart—diphtheria of the spirit MUST NOT IGNORE the aching head of sin ... the trembling hands of sin ... the pounding heart ... the bitter tongue ... and burning eyes of SIN.

Helping to Diagnose the Guilty One's Need

GUILT is the signal that indicates only GOD'S GRACE as the solvent of SIN.

There is no GENERAL METHOD in dealing with the broken

lives that come for cleansing and comfort to us who minister. However, there is a general sweep of diagnosis which must precede the SPECIFIC SOLUTION. In the hundreds of cases of our brief

experience, I have gradually learned to let the heart-broken person talk until he has had time to get to the vital issue. It is not long, usually, until an honest key sentence will "cue in" God's an-

swer.

A series of questions may help to anchor the conversation to the one fundamental source of the difficulty. Allow me to suggest a (Continued on Page 6)

to operate your home
on a Bible Basis ... read

BOBBED HAIR BOSSY WIVES and WOMEN PREACHERS

"... a shame for a woman to be shorn ... but if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her."—I Cor. 11:6,15.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."—Eph. 5:22.

"I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."—I Tim. 2:12.

Q. Is it a sin for women to cut their hair?

A. This book will tell you why a Christian woman's long hair is her glory, how hair bobbed or shorn is a shame, a sign of rebellion against her husband or father and against God. Why shorn hair might tempt angels who hear a woman pray.

Q. Must a wife be subject to, obedient to her husband, ruled by him?

A. This book will show what is a woman's place in the home, her relation to husband and father; how to win her unsaved husband; the marvelous picture of husband and wife as a type of Christ and His church. What God means by "in everything," in Ephesians 5:24.

Q. Does God ever call or consent for women to be preachers, pastors or evangelists?

A. This book shows, by many Scriptures, woman's place in the church. She may win souls, may teach women and children, but may not teach men, nor preach, or teach or address mixed groups including men. There were no women preachers, evangelists, pastors nor Bible teachers of mixed groups, no women missionary speakers in New Testament churches and should be none now. Women are needed on the foreign field now, as at home, but not to disobey God's plain command against women preachers. We think you will find here the freshest and clearest Bible study of prophetesses you ever read.

AND, LAST OF ALL, YOU WILL SEE THAT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS NOT HAIR, BUT HEART, AND THERE IS A FERVENT, TENDER APPEAL FOR EVERY ONE—MAN OR WOMAN OR CHILD—TO BE SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY GOD HAS PLACED OVER HIM OR HER, AND FOR EACH SINNER TO SURRENDER HIS REBELLIOUS HEART TO CHRIST.

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"... after reading **Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers**, I have decided never to cut my hair again. In his book, Dr. Rice has answered dozens of questions that I have wanted to ask for years ..."

C—B—, Cincinnati, Ohio

"... for a long time I did not send for your book, **Bobbed Hair** ... because I didn't think I would be interested; didn't think those questions were important. But I find it is one of the most instructive, most revolutionary I have ever read. It is very much contrary to public opinion, especially among women, but I heartily believe and know that the Bible plan is the only one that works successfully. Mrs. B— didn't want 'obey' in the ceremony when we were married; now she wishes it had been there. She says that her eyes have been opened to how false her former views were, and to a new and better way of living."—Rev. E. W. B—, Rumney, N. H.

"I used to think I was called to be an evangelist. After I read about women preachers I realized the Lord had never called me. I have bobbed hair, but I am going to leave it grow and wear braids."

C—B—, Elmira, N. Y.

"... the book that interested me most was the one by Mr. Rice concerning women's status in the world according to the Bible. Believe me, our home has undergone a few—quite a few changes, and we are all much happier for it. It would be a different world if every woman would read that book and believe what God has to say." Mrs. A. P. B—, Hingham, Mass.

"... a year ago our pastor

gave me the book to read, **Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers**. It has changed my life completely, and I can honestly say that since I have heeded God's Word in my life, as a wife, our marriage has been ever so happy ..."

—Mrs. Roy L. S—, S. Berlin, Mass.

"I have received a great blessing from your book, **Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers**. The Lord has shown me that I have been in rebellion against Him. I have asked Him to take it from my life and with His help I will never again give a message of any kind where men are assembled."—Miss Clara E. G—, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Your book, **Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives, and Women Preachers**, has helped me, oh, so much! Dr. Rice, I was alone the night I read it, and I could see myself as I read on and on. I began to cry, for I knew that I had failed my husband, but, most of all, my God. I read it twice. The 'bossy wives'—I couldn't believe that those Scriptures meant what they said. But my heart was open and God knew that I loved Him and wanted to do His will. Thank God for that book and for God's Word! I believe my husband will be saved now. I'm letting my hair grow."

Mrs. S. K—, E. St. Louis, Ill.

"I was one of these rebellious women until one day I read Dr. Rice's book, **Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives, and Women Preachers**. Mr. Rice said someone told him he was wasting his time trying to get women to stop cutting their hair and bossing their husbands. But tell him he isn't. Christian women and girls will obey the Lord if they know what He wants them to do. I

am going to live for the Lord and I will never cut my hair again."—Sarah M—,

Morganton, N. C.

A strong, sane, Scriptural and conclusive answer to the controversial problems named in the title. Who else would have handled the matter as frankly and fearlessly as Dr. John R. Rice, editor, evangelist and Bible teacher? This book will answer many a woman's questions about her duty to her husband, her place in the work of God, and why God commands Christian women to have long hair, calls it her glory.

You will be struck at once with the clear Bible teaching throughout. Everything is based on a "thus saith the Lord." Not observation, not expediency, not man's opinion, but the plain command of God in the Bible is the last court of resort for a Christian, and here that Word is, with earnest love and a warm heart, plainly expounded.

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Elizabeth

Sword of the Lord Publishers

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Have You Ever Been to Bethel?

(Continued from Page 1)

7-14. This is definitely not—please believe me—just another "Bible Conference." Rather, it is a conference that actually does change lives and ministries. Many a pastor has come to a Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism defeated and has not only taken courage to return to the battle, but has actually been

taught the way to return and win! Evangelist Fred Bloomer had left the ministry in discouragement and had taken a secular job when he came to our conference on evangelism last year. At an all-night prayer meeting he "came back to Bethel," returned home to resign his secular job and re-entered the ministry. As a film evangelist upon our staff, he has been greatly used of God and is

With God There Is No Impossible Case

(Continued from Page 5)

few:

1. Will you tell me about your "conversion"—were you ever really born again? Oftentimes the heart of the issue lies in the fact that the individual has no knowledge of ever receiving Jesus Christ in that intimate soul-cleansing manner of real regeneration. If there is any doubt whatsoever, clear up the "fuzzy" understanding surrounding the word of Christ, "Ye must be born again," with verses like John 1:12, 6:37 and Romans 10:9, 10.

2. Are you SURE you are ready to meet God face to face NOW? Many, many times the overwhelming burdens of guilt and its complexities can be met with the "blessed assurance" of God's guarantees. John 3:18, 5:24, Romans 10:13, I John 5:11-13 need no personal comment—merely the accent that is so ably explained by I Peter 1:3-5.

3. If you are frustrated in your Christian life, allow three questions: Are you daily really feeding on the Word of God or spasmodically scanning your Bible? Do you pray in the morning or at night, and how do you pray? How many people have you intimately and directly tried to win to saving faith in Christ? These pages are too brief to cover the problems resulting from inconsistency and unfaithfulness. Many Christians may find profit in taking inventory here.

4. Do you know of any "besetting sin" or possible "habit" in your life to rob you of spiritual strength? The late "storied" mission leader, Mel Trotter, was once dealing with a man who could not imagine what sin was wrecking his life. Trotter told him to kneel and "GUESS AT IT," and, said Trotter, "he guessed it the first crack out of the box!" You KNOW usually what that secret thing is in your own heart and habit. GET THAT taken care of according to I John 1:9.

5. If you seem helpless to continue in a consistently victorious life, let me take you to a wonderful verse, I Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as IS COMMON TO MAN; but GOD IS FAITHFUL, who will not suffer you to BE TEMPTED ABOVE THAT YE ARE ABLE; but with the temptation ALSO MAKE A WAY TO ESCAPE, that ye may be able to bear it." IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE A CLEAN, VICTORIOUS LIFE today.

The best way to win the war is to win EACH BATTLE. If you win EVERY battle, the war is won! Daily there is victory by DAILY, morning by morning committal of the life to God's power through the Holy Guest who indwells you and wants to control you.

6. Oftentimes the heart is not free of its GUILT until confession has been made (and restitution also, if need be) to men as well as God. Therefore, this question: Is there anything that you feel you must "make right" with man, after kneeling here before God?

This month a man confessed to me that he had been pilfering from his company for fifteen years and could not feel right to carry the name of Christ until he had crossed the state to see his superior and pay back that "some \$400." Another man, who for fourteen years had been stealing from his friends, paid all the funds back with personal confession and

told me, in consequence, that "for the first time now, I can look people in the eye and give an honest testimony of faith." There is something wholesome in clearing every barrier to spiritual health. God speaks often in His Word about that.

One caution from a Bible teacher who once counseled me: "If it's a secret sin, confess it only to God; if it's a sin against one person, confess to God and him; if it has affected three people, confess to God and the three; and if it has affected an entire church or community, confess it to God and the entire community."

I could wish this writing could cover the specific problems of broken homes, divorce, complicated moral situations and difficulties, but I can merely recommend that if you have such problems resulting from SIN, counsel with the most godly pastor you can find. He will be glad to kneel with you and get the matter settled at the heart of it.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"; "It is appointed unto man once to die and after death the judgment." "The wages of sin is death"—all these are fearful truths. We can only meet them with GOD'S GRACIOUS ANSWERS: "My grace is sufficient for thee; My strength is made perfect in weakness." "The GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Joy of Forgiven Sins

What sweetness and satisfaction can come to the intimate human heart when GOD speaks forgiveness for sin!

It was the right side of midnight in a Midwest city where I was preaching. There she lay on her knees hard against the altar of a great warm church. Beside her, Christian mothers knelt as though the sobbing girl were their own child in trouble. Look at her! How quickly the commerce of SIN and Satan can write "counterfeit," "cheap" and "sham" across the beautiful face of a willful child. Lips that God had once penciled with the clean brush of purity were now carelessly coated with the unhappy admission of loss. Fingers—now yellow with nicotine and clutching for something steadfast. Clothing—studded with cheap jewelry, (a cry for beauty when the precious pearl of chastity is gone) yesterday's garments of laughing abandon. Hair—once brushed smoothly over unburdened childish shoulders, now in bleached disarray, faded, sheenless. A face lifted with tired eyes hungry for escape, for truth, for God's love, for spiritual answers and hope! Out of that tight throat one heart-rending whisper, "Oh God, I'm so sick of it all! I've seen the seamy side of life; now is there any peace and forgiveness for me and my fatherless child?"

This is one picture of the results of SIN that I shall never forget. Thank God, we had factual, actual answers for that life! There is no IMPOSSIBLE CASE with God. Today that SIN-SCARRED HEART CAN SING OF HIS COMPLETE FORGIVENESS as she stands in the sun of HIS salvation. The choir friends, who stand around her, are no more surely saved by GRACE.

"THE PRICE TAG ON SIN IS TERRIFYING . . . BUT THE GIFT CARD ON FORGIVENESS IS OURS through the purchase of Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23 reads that way in my heart).

helping to win souls and revive Christians.

Two young men from a denominational college in Kansas came to a Sword of the Lord conference last year. They returned to their college with such spiritual power and holy enthusiasm that both faculty and student body were stirred. A few months later this college conducted a conference on evangelism, patterned after such Sword conferences. I had the joy of being the first speaker on their conference program!

Frankly we hardly see how you can afford to miss this great conference on evangelism. And you can easily afford to come. Where else in all America can you live for eight days as inexpensively as you can at his conference? Where could you find better vacation facilities? Here in the beau-

tiful Ozark Mountains, each afternoon will be free for recreation. There are facilities for swimming and games. Or you may visit or sleep in the buildings or beneath the shady trees.

And imagine being privileged to hear men like Bob Jones, D. A. (Scotchie) McCall, John R. Rice and others in a great outdoor tabernacle seating 1,500 each morning and evening, in five services daily, without even the necessity of stepping in your car or dressing up in your "Sunday-go-to-meetin'" clothes! And all this while you are on a vacation!

By all means plan to come. Notice details on front page of this paper, and send \$1 reservation fee immediately. A few cabins left, which are for married couples and families only. Other space available in nice dormitories for men and women.

Bob Jones Says:

(Continued from Page 1)

testimony, Christianity would have been exterminated long ago. It has been well said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. The Word of God makes it plain that those who suffer with Christ will reign with Him. We do not go to Heaven because we suffer. We go to Heaven because we trust Him who suffered for us; but only those who suffer will ever really reign with the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter Gemmel and others like him who have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and have given their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ will be the ones who will sit down with the Lord Jesus Christ when He sits down on His throne.

"Be Thou Faithful Unto Death"

Thousands of Covenantors in Scotland died for the faith. Many of them were martyred near Edinburgh. A few days ago we had a lump in our throat as we saw that open prison where two thousand Covenantors and faithful saints of God were kept through a long winter with no roof over their heads. Cold rains fell upon them. The winter winds blew upon them. Persecution was heaped upon them, but God's grace sustained them.

Most of us Christians do not know what suffering means. We read these wonderful words, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." This does not just mean that we are to be faithful as long as we live. We are, of course, supposed to be faithful until we reach the end of the journey; but this statement, "Be thou faithful unto death," means literally to be faithful enough to die if need be. Those who are faithful enough to die for the Lord Jesus Christ are the ones who will receive a crown of life.

We cannot earn salvation. The Bible makes it plain that the gift of God is eternal life. God gives salvation to all those who trust Christ as Saviour and Lord. But we can earn a reward. Crowns are not given except to those who deserve to wear them. We cannot earn salvation, but we can earn rewards. The Lord Jesus Christ will never put a crown on the head of a saint unless the saint deserves to wear that crown. We do not have to die for Christ to wear a martyr's crown, but we have to be faithful enough to die for Him if necessary. Note these words: "Be thou faithful unto death." He did not say, "If you die for Me, I will give you a crown." He makes it clear that if we are faithful enough to die if necessary, He will give us a crown.

Sometimes we have asked ourselves this question, "Suppose some cruel Nero held sway and we had to go back on the Lord Jesus Christ or die. What would we do?" So many professing Christians compromise their testimony and turn their backs on Jesus Christ, and they sell out for so little. Sometimes a preacher compromises in order to hold his position in his denomination. Sometimes mothers and fathers compromise their testimony in order to give their sons and daughters a little worldly, social

prestige and position. There are, however, many thousands of faithful saints who, if they were subjected to the test of "walking out on" the Son of God or shedding their life blood for this testimony, would die a thousand deaths before they would go back on their Lord. The thing we would do for Jesus if the testing time should come is what we are in His sight. He knows our hearts. He knows whether we love Him in sincerity. He knows whether we would die for Him if need be. Yes, He knows. Men look at outward appearances, but He looks at the heart.

We Christians might sit down and ask ourselves the question, "Do I really love my Lord? Am I faithful to Him in my heart? Am I willing to go with Him all the way, even though it may mean persecution, suffering, and death?"

Things of Earth Cannot Satisfy the Immortal Soul

"I made me great works; I builded me houses . . . I got me servants . . . I gathered me also silver and gold. So I was great and whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them . . . Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought and on the labor that I had labored to do; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."

That is, in substance, what the wise man said in the book of Ecclesiastes. Remember that in the book of Ecclesiastes the Holy Spirit accurately records the reasoning of the natural man. There may be some things in the reasoning of the natural man that are wrong, but the man here is undoubtedly right in his conclusion.

In our lifetime, we have met many men who have lived in fine homes. They had servants. They had silver and gold. They could have anything they wanted in a material way, but they found that all of their wealth, position, accomplishments, and material possibilities were vanity and vexation of spirit. We have seen so many humble, faithful, trusting saints of God who have reached mature old age and have had so little of this world's goods, but they had peace in their heart and the light of contentment in their faces. Men think they want money and material things until they get these, then they find that it is not what they want. Alexander the Great conquered the world and wept because he did not have another world to conquer. Man is an immortal being. He must live somewhere forever and ever. The things that perish with their using cannot satisfy man who is imperishable and immortal.

Facing Eternity

Recently in the British Museum in London we saw the mummy of a girl who was supposed to have died at least five thousand years ago. Since that girl died, empires have gone up and gone down. Armies have marched to battle. Generation after generation have lived and died. Three thousand years after this girl died, the virgin-born Son of God lived among men, went to Calvary's Cross, died for sinners, was buried, arose from the dead, and

then went back to His Father's House. The soul of that girl that died five thousand years ago is living now. Someday Jesus will come back and that mummy will live again. The battlefields of the world will give up their dead. Out of the depths of the ocean, dead mothers will come forth holding babies in their arms. Abraham and Sarah and David will wake up.

When we think of the coming of Christ to raise the dead and think of the immortal spirits in the bodies of men and think of the eternal ages that lie out ahead of us, it is so strange how people try to satisfy themselves with the dread sordid of the dread commonplace and the dread monotony of everyday life. If in this life we have no hope, we are of all men most miserable. If Jesus Christ did not die to save us and if He did not rise from the dead and if we are not going to rise from the dead if and when we die, and if they have no immortal souls, what is the use anyway? We are here today; tomorrow we die; the next day we are buried; and the next day we are forgotten.

Take Christ for Eternity

Life has little meaning if this world is all. But life becomes wonderful when we think of God and Heaven and eternity; when we think of resurrection and immortality; when we think of cloudless skies and golden streets and gates of pearl and jasper walls; when we think of the city without a cemetery and a city where no one wears mourning and babies never cry in pain and there are no aching hearts and lonely souls; when we think of a city where dreams never fade and hopes are never dashed and nobody ever dies and nobody ever cries and there are no aching backs and breaking heads.

Our Christianity is not a dream. It is a blessed, glorious reality. Yes, Jesus Christ is real. He is as real as Mother, Father and friend. He is real to those who trust Him. He is a daily, wonderful, comforting companion for us who live in fellowship with Him. There is something beyond the grave. There is a Heaven for saints and a Hell for sinners. The gate of the heavenly City swings on the hinges of Calvary. Jesus died for us. We are saved, not by what we do, but by accepting what He did for us when He bore our sin in His body on that cruel cross.

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With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By The Editor

Many blessed revivals are being reported over the nation. Let us all pray for the evangelists.

Dr. Clifford Lewis Sees Many Saved at First Presbyterian Church, Donalsonville, Georgia

Rev. J. Don Skinner, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Donalsonville, Georgia, writes a glowing letter telling of a great revival in his church May 8-23, led by Dr. Clifford Lewis, evangelist:

"This meeting proved to be one of the GREATEST revivals this church has ever experienced; also reaching out to the whole community and surrounding towns and counties. The church was packed every every night and many nights there were many standing on the outside. There were large delegations coming in from Florida and Alabama.

"Services were held every night and every morning. The first week Dr. Lewis spoke over the radio, and every morning of the second week he spoke in the different schools, speaking to over twenty-five hundred students.

"The outward results of the meeting were seventy-nine professions and sixty-four reclaimed for Christ, making a total of 143. Truly this revival was sent by the Lord and we thank Him for sending Dr. Lewis to us. We thank God for such a man of God as Dr. Lewis and for the fearless and bold way in which he proclaims the gospel of Christ. We can truly say that God opened the windows of Heaven and poured a blessing upon these, the people of our community, which they will not forget in years to come.

"Our prayers go with Dr. Lewis as we feel he is being used of God in a wonderful way to awaken Christian people all over this nation."

Evangelist Douglas Winn Looking Forward to Cedar Lake Conference

Evangelist Doug Winn, of Martinsville, Virginia, will be one of the speakers at the Sword Conference on Soul Winning and Revival at Cedar Lake, Indiana, July 16-24. He writes of two recent meetings:

"With much joy and prayer I look forward to Cedar Lake. Oh, may God give us a mighty outpouring of His power that Christians may be set aflame for Christ!

"There were thirty-five dear souls to accept the Lord as Saviour in short meetings just closed in Butler, Pennsylvania, and Louisville, Kentucky. Truly these were some of the most marvelous services I have ever witnessed. In both cities I wished for more time to continue the campaigns. The last service in Louisville was especially pungent with conviction. At the close of my message on 'The Home' dozens came to confess sin, to erect family altars, and for real redemption. At the present time I am at the Glen Hope Baptist Church in Burlington, North Carolina. Yesterday was a blessed day as twenty-three came for salvation. This is my fifth series of meetings in this great church. In one of the meetings the Lord gave 150 conversions.

"If you would make an album with one of your messages on records, I'm certain many of your friends would wish to buy them. This would make an ideal Christmas gift and I believe I could use quite a number. God bless you."

Evangelist Kenneth Chapman Has Good Revival at Oak Flat, Arkansas

We are glad to hear from our Brother Kenneth Chapman, associated with THE SWORD OF THE LORD, about a good revival meeting held in Oak Flat, Arkansas. He writes:

"I am writing to inform you of a wonderful revival in a small

church in Oak Flat, Arkansas. This was my third meeting with this church and they have called me back for the fourth meeting, to be conducted, the Lord willing, the last two weeks of August, 1950. The church was wonderfully revived during this meeting. After the first two nights the building was filled and crowded out several times during the meeting, which was conducted June 13-26, during their busy crop season. There were thirty definite rededications, an uncounted number of decisions to live a better Christian life and more faithful Sunday School and church attendance, eighteen public professions of faith and seventeen additions to the church. I left there praising God from whom all blessings flow.

"May God bless you, my dear brother. Pray for me when you think of me. I plan to see you at Siloam Springs."

Millard Box Enters Nationwide Evangelistic Field

Evangelist Millard Box has recently been a missionary evangelist for Southern Baptists in a county-wide association in Missouri. Now he is going into full-time revival work on a nationwide scale. He is commended by many leading ministers who know him well, has had fourteen years' ministerial experience, has had some blessed revivals with many saved.

From the First Baptist Church, Wilson, Oklahoma, the pastor, Rev. J. P. Dane, writes the following letter:

"Rev. Millard Box, who has now gone into full-time evangelistic work, helped us in a youth revival this spring, and I would like to tell you something about the meeting. You remember that he was with us last July, and when the youth were asked who they would like to have conduct the Youth Revival, they voted unanimously for Brother Box. He appeals strongly to young people, and they like his dynamic and attractive personality. At the same time he wields a powerful influence in leading them to deeper consecration and separation from the world.

"In our revival in March, there were several professions of faith, and there would probably have been many more had the meeting gone more than a week. The feature of the revival that was impressive was the fact that every third but the preaching was in the hands of the youth themselves. They advertised the meeting, planned and conducted the prayer meetings, and did practically all the visitation. Who says all our youth are going to the dogs! Our meeting proved that all youth needs is a challenge to worthwhile activity—but, they like to do things by themselves. Brother Box capitalized on this desire—that youth has to be important—and accomplish something worthwhile, and led them in a fine way.

"Brother Box has the marvelous ability of holding spellbound young and old alike. I can truthfully say, 'There is never a dull moment.' Few preachers can keep me interested in every minute of their message, but Brother Box makes you listen. He preaches with conviction and the power of the Spirit, and conducts a sane, Christ-centered campaign."

Evangelist Millard Box may be reached at 323 W. McKinney, Neosho, Missouri. We commend him heartily, as a well-trained, spiritual, fervent and Spirit-filled preacher of the Word, sound in faith, unselfish and reliable.

The Curt Emmons Party

We are glad to hear good reports of the Curt Emmons Evangelistic Party, consisting of the evangelist, wife and two musical daughters. We are glad to have the two following nice letters telling of their work.

Meet Me at Siloam Springs, Ark., Aug. 7-14

(Continued from Page 1)

ready. Hurry!

- Each afternoon given to recreation, games, swimming (men and women separate hours), visiting, baseball, etc.
- Prayer meetings, counsel by great soul winners, help get your life established where God wants you.
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DO IT NOW!

"On April 17 we closed a Union Meeting in Monroe, Iowa. The Curt Emmons Evangelistic Party of Winona Lake, Indiana, conducted the meeting, which was sponsored by the Baptist, Methodist and United Presbyterian Churches. I can heartily recommend the Emmons Party to any one who desires a safe and sound evangelist, whether it be a union meeting or a single church meeting. Rev. Emmons preaches the pure Gospel, without any froth of false fire to it. The musical ability of all the members of the party and their musical program would be hard to match. Their Christian character and congenial Christian spirit makes them nice to have around. When they leave, souls have been saved, Christians restored to fellowship, and faithful Christians strengthened. I heartily recommend them to any pastor desiring the help of an evangelist."

Rev. H. E. Ketcham, Pastor
First Baptist Church,
Monroe, Iowa

"Again the church was blessed with the ministry in the Lord, of the Emmons Evangelistic Party of Winona Lake, Indiana, in an eight night meeting, April 24th, through May 1st. This was the fourth campaign with them in this church, and as ever, their ministry was richly blessed, with many decisions for Christ.

"The sane and sound preaching of the Evangelist, Rev. Curt Emmons, the outstanding talent of Mrs. Emmons as an evangelistic pianist, and the consecrated lives of their two daughters, Eileen and Ethel, both accomplished musicians and vocalists, not only furnish a combination which is unsurpassed for an evangelistic campaign, but their ministry also with the children and young people furnishes an appeal to all ages with the glorious Gospel of Christ. The entire party works with an eye single to the glory of our blessed Lord, in constant endeavor to win the lost to Christ, and strengthen the faith and spiritual life of the believer."

S. Andrew Hutchison, Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Xenia, Ohio

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"This letter is written with great joy in the Holy Ghost as an expression of blessing received from your Heaven-touched pen. I have received your paper since I have converted in 1946 and it so blessed me that I had to give it as a Christmas gift to several others.

"Also I have all except one of your books and they have been a great blessing. Your book, *The Ruin of a Christian*, searched my heart, tried my motives, and was used of the Spirit to stir me to live above circumstances and unto God. As a young minister I feel the need of reading it often and passing one like it on to others.

"Prayer—Asking and Receiving has led me to ask God for what I need for His glory and receive it by faith. Hallelujah! Shortly after reading it I went fishing in a clear Texas stream near my home. I caught some bait, set out six lines, and asked the Lord for one fish. When I went back the next morning my lines were bare, except the last one. I prayed before I got to it and knew that God had promised me a fish. When I approached, the limb on which it was tied went down into the water and after a struggle I landed a nice catfish that weighed twenty-five pounds. The Lord being my witness, I had a shouting revival, praising my Lord for answering my prayer.

"I gave this testimony in the Youth Rally that Saturday night and people almost fell off their benches. Then God spoke to me and said, 'Ask for something spiritual in this Youth Rally and I'll further prove that I live and hear prayer.' Well, I felt like asking God for five souls, and at the Tuesday night prayer service that we held for the Rally, I announced that God had showed me in Dr. Rice's book to ask for definite things and He could give five souls just as He gave that fish. Many young people repeated the prayer for five souls. That Saturday night all were eagerly awaiting to see God work. When that fifth soul walked down the aisle and accepted Christ as his Saviour—well, only Heaven can tell the joy and what happened to our hearts and faith in a prayer-answering God. Praise God for your book! It has also led me to fast and intercede for souls in revival power.

"I have given out many of your tracts 'What Must I Do To Be Saved?'—and the message is so thorough, simple and clear. One day I was talking to a young person who could not understand. I handed this person a tract and told her to read it and pray over it. That night the person saved through the tract came to the meeting and made a public profession.

"May the Lord be praised and keep you in good health to continue your ministry. I have prayed for you much and still waiting for the Lord to move you to write a book on the Holy Spirit about whom the church of today knows so little."

J. T. S., Bandera, Texas.

"Dear Sword Family:

"I was a 'babe' in Christ; bewildered, uncertain about the ways of the Lord. In fact, had about decided to give up trying, when one day I received a sample copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the mail. I read every word in that paper, sent in my subscription and then eagerly waited for another copy. The Lord had not forgotten me; for it seemed to me He was speaking to me through these sermons in THE SWORD. Gradually I began to feel faith growing stronger and to see what it means to be a Christian, and believe me, it's a wonderful feeling—that 'belonging' feeling.

"I have read Prayer: Asking and Receiving, The Home: Sword Book of Treasures, The Ruin of a Christian, Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers, The Scarlet Sin and many other books recommended by the Sword Book Club. All of these books have made their rounds in our community—in fact, are still 'traveling.' Eyes have been opened and great

blessings have come to souls starved for God-given messages such as these books contain.

"I feel that I owe my 'spiritual' growth from a 'milk' to a 'meat' Christian to Dr. Rice and the Sword family . . ."

MRS. DAYTON MEIRHOFFER,
Drummond, Wisconsin

"It is a pleasure to write you and tell you what THE SWORD OF THE LORD has meant to me. I have been receiving the paper now about four years and feel that if I was not born again, I am now. I am a Negro woman and cook three meals a day. My mail comes to the box where I work. And when THE SWORD OF THE LORD is brought in the kitchen to me, I cannot do anything until I at least read the subject of each sermon.

"Out of all the sermons, the sins of the Spirit and the sad face of Jesus had the most effect on my heart. I feel my life would be empty if I failed to receive this wonderful paper. I have sent in subscriptions for a number of my friends, including my brother. As soon as I finish mine, I give them to my pastor who enjoys them so much.

"I also have your book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving* which has meant so much to me. And *The Ruin of a Christian* cannot be beat. It is a wonderful strength for a weak Christian. And the little pamphlet on your sins will find you out—I enjoyed it so much and passed it on to a friend. I plan to never do without this wonderful paper . . ."

MISS OLEVIN NORMAN
Natchez, Mississippi

"Dear Sword of the Lord Family!"

"I have read some of most of your writings, so I feel that I know you. I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Rice preach several times when he was at our church in an evangelistic campaign about four years ago. I sure received some wonderful blessings.

"The people in Augusta didn't realize what a great man Dr. Rice was until he left, but thank God he left his influence with some of us. I don't know how to thank him for all he has meant to me. I was in a backslidden condition when he was here. I dedicated my life anew in his meeting, and, thank God, my life has been different since that time.

"My home was broken up and my wife sued me for alimony and I couldn't hold a job, but, praise God, He keeps His promise. And He was with me in the day of trouble.

"My home is restored. I have been on the same job for four years and have just been promoted to a responsible position with my company.

"Dr. Rice, I was under the influence of alcohol for four or five years. I thought I couldn't quit drinking, but when the power of God takes hold of you, all things are possible. I want you to know that THE SWORD OF THE LORD supplied the spiritual strength through the Holy Spirit for me to overcome this awful habit. I am now vice-president of my Sunday School class, and Bible Quizz leader of my B. T. U. and I enjoy any part of the Lord's work . . ."

H. F. D.,
Augusta, Ga.

"Through The Sword I've avoided getting off into fanatical 'isms'. Through The Sword I've been kept militantly fundamental and zealously evangelistic. All in all, my ministry would not be what it is, under the Spirit of God, without the help I get from THE SWORD OF THE LORD . . ."

REV. BUD BRYANT,
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King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences

(Continued from Page 4)

from his own son, driven from his throne and palace and capital city by a rebel mob? And Shimei followed and threw stones at David, and called him a bloody man. This was a disgrace almost too much to bear and Abishai, loyal nephew of David, turned to the king and said, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go and pray the and take off his head!" But the king sadly turned to this young man and said, "So let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?" (II Sam. 16:10).

You know the rest of the story, how David hid out in dens and caves, how the friends of David assembled against the armies led by Absalom in a mighty battle. You know how Absalom's head was caught in the branches of an oak tree, and there they found him and shot him through with darts, and Absalom died.

King David had said to Joab when he went out that morning to the battle, "Deal gently with the young man Absalom." But when the messenger came to bring David news of the battle and David asked about Absalom, the messenger said, "May all the enemies of my lord the king be as that young man is this day." And David turned and went up into the room over the city gate, and wept as he went. And thus he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (II Sam. 18:33). David has paid in full the heavy price, the fourfold price for his sin.

David knows now that they sow to the wind shall reap the whirlwind. David knows now that sin brings forth an increased crop.

Years ago a wicked, drunken old man was saved at Evansville, Indiana. They called him "Old Bill." He had had an eye put out in a drunken fight. Then we was wonderfully saved. He called himself now "New Bill" because God made him new. He gave his testimony far and near as to what God would do for a poor ruined sinner who would trust him. But to his dying day New Bill still had only one eye. He found that though his sin was forgiven, he must pay. And so it is with a Christian who goes into sin. He may be forgiven, but he must still pay on his debt. I pray that God may let it sink solemnly into my heart and into yours that sin is a dreadful, hateful, fearsome business; that the wages of sin are bitter, bitter beyond any human computation! I pray that every Christian may so watch and pray with fear and trembling that he may be spared from such terrible sins as David's, for you may be sure that your sins will find you out!

VI. Sin Gloriously Put Away and Forgiven!

I could not leave this heart-rending story without telling you the wonderful truth of God's cleansing and forgiveness. David did commit a terrible sin, and he suffered for it. But, thank God, his sin was forgiven and covered. And David received sweet peace, and God did not withdraw His Spirit from David. David received again the sweet joy of his salvation.

First, let us consider the penitential prayer of David.

The traditional note above Psalm 51 is as follows: "To the chief Musician. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba." That explanatory note does not claim to be a part of the Bible, and yet we believe it is correct. The fifty-first Psalm is the penitential prayer of David after his sin had been forcibly brought to his mind by Nathan the prophet.

Let us read the penitential Psalm 51 as the heart-cry of a Christian who has done wrong.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:

according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt-offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt-offering and whole burnt-offering; then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar."—Psalm 51.

I have not time to preach on this wonderful Psalm. Second Samuel 12:20 tells us that after David's baby died he washed and anointed himself and changed his apparel and came into the house of the Lord and worshipped. It may be that then he wrote this wonderful Psalm. Or it may be that in those days of fasting and prayer while the baby was stricken and before it died that David wrote these pleading words of prayer. I do not know. But we should notice that David here thoroughly confesses his sin, confesses his weakness, admits his guilt before God. He pleads for cleansing. He pleads that God will hide his face from sin, will make David's spirit right. He pleads that God will not cast him away from conscious fellowship with Him and that God will not take the Holy Spirit from him. We know that this prayer was answered. David prayed that God would restore to him the joy of salvation and uphold him. "Then," said David, "will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness." Oh, even in that time when he is conscious of his sin, David is pleading that he may still be made fit to be a soul winner. And he offers to God the one sacrifice that God wants from a sinner—a broken and contrite heart. Such an offering God will never despise.

So David was restored to fellowship and restored to joy. God still wonderfully used him as He had done before.

But we have neglected a brief word or two in the story, which I wish now to call to your attention. When Nathan the prophet had told David of the rich man who stole the poor man's lamb, David said, "As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die." Then David said that the lamb should be restored fourfold. It is a striking thing that David had to fulfill the prophecy about the fourfold payment of the lamb. David lost his baby, then had his daughter raped, then had his son

assassinated by Absalom, then had Absalom rebel, to commit fornication with David's own concubines on the housetop, and then die in rebellion against David. But while the prophecy in verse 6 was fulfilled, the prophecy in verse 5 was not. David did not die for this sin. Second Samuel 12:13 tells us: "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." David's sin was put away. David did not die.

And this for us pictures the wonderful truth of salvation. Every one who was ever saved was a lost sinner condemned to die, who deserved to die, not only death in the flesh but death in the spirit. Every sinner ever saved deserved not only the first death but also the second death. But those who come and put their trust in Jesus, as David had done, have their sins put away, have their sins forgiven.

That term "put away" which God uses about David's sin is a beautiful term. That is the term used in Hebrews 9:26 about Jesus: "... but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." And the two following verses say, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of man; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Oh, glorious truth that Christ has appeared and taken away sin by the sacrifice of Himself! The reason David did not die is because he had trusted the coming Messiah to pay for his sins. God offered Jesus to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Now, although it is appointed for all of us to die, and every man and woman who was ever born deserves to die in his sins and go to Hell, yet, thank God, Christ, offered for our sins once, is coming again. And when He comes, "shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." That is, the sins of ours will not appear. Christ has already borne them, put them away, paid for them. And when we see Jesus He will not reproach us with them, because they are under the blood and we do not have to die the eternal death.

The dear Lord Jesus died in my place. That is the only hope I have of salvation! He died to put away my sin. That is the only hope I have of missing Hell. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice to put away sin. And my sins, thank God, are put away!

I know no other assurance in this world as precious as this assurance that one's sin is paid for and put away.

You remember that Isaiah 44:22 says, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." That is not for Jews alone, it is for me, and for everybody else who will trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, who came to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Every one who comes to Jesus Christ has his sins put away. One who comes to Christ has his sins blotted out. One who comes to Christ has his sins carried as far as the east is from the west, an infinite distance, for Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." And Hebrews 10:17 tells us, "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Thank God, when He forgives a sinner's sin, they are put away forever so that even God forgets them, and will not remember them.

There are two solemn invitations which I want to put in writing here at the end of this sermon on "King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences." One is for those who are Christians, but who know they have gone into sin, know there is sin in their lives, know they have grieved God, know they have covered up sin in their lives, and so are subject to God's angry judgments. If you know that you have sinned against God, you need not tell me what it was. Won't you confess it to God now,

honestly uncover the matter in your heart? Face it, and confess it, renounce it and with all your heart penitently turn from it today, and ask God to blot it out forever! If there is a sin against somebody else that you ought to make right, then do it today. If there is a debt unpaid, go pay it. If there is something stolen to be restored, then restore it, with interest. If you owe an apology, go make it. If there is wrong unrighted, in Jesus' name, go make it right today. If there is a brother estranged, offended, then go and apologize. Remember that Jesus said, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:23, 24). Oh, be reconciled today with anyone with whom you are at variance! Forgive and be forgiven. Throw away your grudges against others and go in tender humility to beg forgiveness of any who have grudges against you!

I say, the first invitation is to Christians. If you will honestly confess to God some serious sin, and honestly turn away from that sin, and make whatever restitution is possible or necessary, as God gives you grace, then sign the decision form, or copy it in a letter, and send it to me. Let that be a token between you and God that you are honestly facing your sin with Him and will do your utmost to make it right.

Decision for Sinning Christians

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor, The Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon on "The Horrible Sin of King David and Its Consequences." God has brought to mind a matter in which I have seriously sinned against Him, but had not yet confessed it to Him, nor honestly faced it. I here and now confess my sin to God. I will ask Him to cleanse me and forgive me. I will ask Him to show me how I may make it right with others. And as God leads I will make whatever restitution seems necessary or possible, and set out to make sure that the sin is cleansed out of my life. I confess it to God and claim His promise of cleansing and forgiveness, according to I John 1:9. I trust Him to restore the joy of my salvation and help me to win souls and live in His joy and power.

Signed

Address

Decision for Lost Sinners

But some sinner has read this who knows himself to be an unconverted, unforgiven sinner. Oh, sinner, how will you face the God of judgment, the God who punishes His own dear saints, who punished David, a man so dear

to God? How will you expect to get by with your sin when you have not repented, when you have not trusted Christ for forgiveness? In Jesus' dear name I beg you today to repent of your sins and trust Christ for forgiveness.

He loves you. If you will depend upon Him this moment He will forgive you. I beg you to trust Him now, his very moment, with all your heart. Confess your sin and believe that He forgives you, because He died for you and because He has promised. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," is the plain promise of Acts 16:31. Will you trust today and with penitent heart receive His forgiveness? If you will, won't you sign the decision form here, then copy it on a letter or card and mail it to me at once? Say yes in your heart to God, and receive His forgiveness. I will be so glad to hear that you are trusting the Saviour. I will write you a letter of encouragement and counsel. Will you here and now turn away from your sins and give your heart to Jesus Christ forever? If you will, then say yes in your heart, sign the decision form, copy it and mail it at once.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor, The Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois:

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon on "King David's Horrible Sin and Its Consequences." I feel moved in my heart to confess that I am a poor lost sinner. I want God to forgive me and save me. I believe that Jesus died for me. I believe that He is willing to put away my sins and forgive them as He promised to do for those who trust Him. Here and now, with all my heart I trust Christ to forgive my sins, I depend upon Him to save my soul. This moment I take Him as my own Saviour. By His grace I will confess Him before men and set out to live for Him the balance of my life.

Signed

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